



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee is an active voice in advocating that all students receive superior educational services enabling each student to achieve optimum success throughout the school years and into the world of adulthood.

February 28, 2013

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

RI Parent Information Network
1210 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, RI 02920

Meeting Minutes

Present: Lori Barden, Princess Sirleaf Bomba, Eileen Botelho, Ann Brockmann, Cris Brodeur, Amy Canario, Allyson Dupont, Gillian Elliot Pearis, Deborah Garneau, Rosemary Gomes, Patti Hien, Laura Laviano, Craig Levis, Robin Pacheco, Mary Pendergast, Robert Wall

Absent: Kate Barnas*, Wilfred Beaudoin*, Jennifer Connolly*, Susan Donovan*, Joanne Eichinger, JoAnn Nannig*, Cynthia Notarianni*, Pamela O'Brien*, Ann Rudman*, Louise Tillinghast

Resigned: Donna Alqassar, Lynn Bouvier-Kapiskas

RIDE/RITAP Attendees: Elizabeth Pinto, David Sienko

** Notes that prior notice was given regarding absence*

Call to Order, Welcome, Agenda Review: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Mary welcomed everyone and reviewed some brief announcements.

Announcements:

- Public Meetings for BHDDH are no longer occurring.
- Public Meetings for the Early Childhood Educator Approval are closed but public comment can still be given via MonkeySurvey through March 8.
- The Beyond Parent Night: Parent Academies on the topic of Rethinking Parent and Family Engagement will be held on March 7 from 9 – 10:30 am at the Rhode Island Foundation, One Union St., Providence. Today (2/28) was the deadline for registration.
- A free workshop of Dare To Dream to help youth learn leadership strategies will be held at RIPIN on March 7th from 4 – 6:30 pm.
- The next Dare To Dream conference will be held at URI on May 22.

New Business:

Telephone (401) 222-4600 **Fax** (401) 222-6178 **TTY** (800) 745-555 **Voice** (800) 745-6575 **Website:** www.ride.ri.gov

The Board of Regents does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, race, color, religion national origin or disability.

Guest Speaker: Phyllis Lynch with update on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) assessment

The following are highlights of her Power point presentation. (A copy of that will be made available to RISEAC members):

- Rhode Island is part of the PARCC group of 22 states. The other option being developed for assessment of the Common Core Standards is the “Smarter Balance”.
- Rhode Island is one of about 20 governing board states which allows RI a vote in the development of the PARCC.
- The design of the assessment is a system including summative and other optional pieces.
- The summative piece includes:
 - PBA (performance based assessment) – a required piece which is completed on-line (there is a paper-and-pencil version available) – should be completed in March allowing time for scoring
 - End-of-the-year – computer scored – should be completed in April/May
- There is a Speaking & Listening Assessment, not included in the summative score, which is locally scored
- There are optional pieces including:
 - Diagnostic Assessment – provides an early indicator for schools of areas of need. It is non-summative.
 - Mid-Year assessment – is performance-based and potentially summative
- The PARCC will assess English Language Arts (reading & writing) and Math.
- Science will continue to be assessed through NECAP in May until further notice.
- Both NECAP and PARCC will be given to the class of 2016, the current 9th grade, since the NECAP scores are part of the graduation requirements.
- Common Accommodations Policies for students with disabilities, are being developed on this timeline:
 - Reading access and calculator accommodations **Jan/Feb 2013**
 - Writing access **Feb/March 2013**
 - Draft PARCC Accommodation Manual including those for English Language Learners (ELL) & students with disabilities **April/May 2013**
 - Governing Board vote on approval of PARCC Accommodation Manual **June 2013**
- An alternate assessment is also being developed for the Common Core Standards called NCSC, National Center and State Collaborative. It will be administered in 2014-15. It will include:
 - Staged adaptive tasks(technology-based)
 - Administered one-on-one, for most who will need it
 - Guidelines will be provided for the IEP team to determine eligibility
 - It will be coordinated with the general assessment used

Guest Speaker: Ruth Gallucci on the Early Childhood Initiative – There was a Power point presentation as well as a handout provided for the members.

Approvals of Minutes for January 17, 2013 – Two corrections about absences were noted. With those corrections, Amy C. made a motion to accept the minutes, Lori seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Workgroups Meet - Mary Pendergast made a suggestion to suspend the Workgroup meetings until the March meeting since the time was nearing 8:30 pm. Robin made a motion to suspend the Workgroup meetings until March, Lori seconded, the vote was unanimous to approve.

Director's Report:

- RIDE has posted FAQs on student access to career-preparation programs as described in the 2012 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Regulations. You may check them at this link:
<http://www.ride.ri.gov/OMP/default.aspx#CTE>

- RIDE has partnered with SmartBus LIVE! to equip the exterior of statewide buses with live digital-video violation-detection equipment. This is to detect/identify cars that illegally pass school buses.
- Schools are urged to encourage parent, teacher/staff, and student participation in Survey Works. The survey is designed to provide important school-stakeholder feedback.
- The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has issued guidance clarifying districts' existing legal obligations to provide equal access to extracurricular activities to students with disabilities. The guidance also urges districts to work with community organizations to increase athletic opportunities for students with disabilities. For more information, see: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201301-504.html>.
- **Teacher Assistant Networks** - Teacher Assistant (TA) Networks provide TAs with professional development and the chance to network with TAs from other districts. Networks meet 3 times each school year (Fall, Winter and Spring). TA Networks are a partnership of the Educational Collaboratives & RI Department of Education. You can sign up for the Rhode Island Teachers Assistant electronic mailing to receive newsletters and current information regarding Teacher Assistants in RI. You must join through the RIDE website.
- **OSERS Announces Revision of Parental Consent Regulations** - This major revision will allow LEAs to obtain a **one-time written consent and provide written notification** to the child's parents *before* accessing the child's or the parent's public benefits or insurance for the first time and prior to obtaining the one-time parental consent and annually thereafter. Full implementation for state agencies begins on July 1, 2013. RIDE/RITAP will convene a workgroup to update the current Parental Consent Brochure and the Model Medicaid Consent Form. The following link provides access to a copy of the revised regulations, a one page summary of what the changes mean and a FAQ to explain the revisions: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/reg/idea/part-b/part-b-parental-consent.html>.
- **9th Annual College Planning Forum** - The 9th Annual College Planning Forum for Middle and High School Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), 504 plans, and physical or emotional disabilities, as well as their parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and other school support personnel, will be held on Saturday **March 9, 2013 at Providence College, Moore Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Registration fee is \$10 for individuals, \$15 for families. For more information, please contact Diana Kriner at 401-270-0101 ext. 129 or kriner@ripin.org.
- **5th Annual Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conference- May 22, 2103** – Dare to Dream provides a forum for youth leaders with special health care and diverse learning needs from schools and youth groups across RI to share their experiences with peers and those coming up behind them. Register now at www.ritap.org For additional information contact Deb Golding at 401-222-5954 or deb.golding@health.ri.gov.
- **RIDE to hold focus groups on developing “student portal” website** - RIDE is partnering with the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority to enhance the **WayToGoRI** student portal for middle- and high-school students. Included in this project is the development of a statewide transcript for middle-school students. During the weeks of March 11 and March 18, RIDE and WayToGo staff will be holding focus groups across the state. For more information, contact Peg Votta, at Margaret.Votta@ride.ri.gov.
- TASH is sponsoring a regional conference at Rhode Island College on April 12, 2013. The topic of the conference is "Promoting Self Determined Futures" and the Sherlock Center is acting as the local host for this event. RIDE has joined other state and private organizations as a sponsor for this conference. For more information see www.TASH.org.
- **7th Annual Administration of the Special Education Statewide Parent Survey** – This will be mailed during March 2013 with a completion date of May 2013. Over 24,000 surveys in four different languages will be mailed.
- **Augmentative and/or Alternative Communication Action Planning Meeting** – Daylong event on March 27 at CCRI. Please let David know if someone is interested in attending.

- **Sequestration effects in Rhode Island** - The immediate effect would be on Impact Aid from the Department of Defense in a handful of RI communities. The full effect will not be specifically measurable until July 1st.
- **School assemblies on mental health** - The White House plans to launch a national conversation on mental health at an event next month, and is inviting schools in every state to join the dialogue by committing to holding a school assembly on mental health before the end of 2013. More information is available on the ASCA [website](#). If you have questions or need more information, contact [Amanda Fitzgerald](#), of ASCA.

Old Business: A copy* of the letter of RISEAC's response to the SPP/APR (State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report) presented by Dr. Susan Wood will be attached to these minutes for the members.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Ann and seconded by Patti to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Recording Secretary: Ann L. Brockmann

RISEAC website: www.riseac.org